

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 RSR-01 /120 W

----- 119423

R 020933Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 300

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: INDO/PAK RAWALPINDI TALKS: PAKISTAN'S POSITION

REF: ISLAMABAD 6209

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF AIDE MEMOIRE PASSED CHARGE
BY FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI AT MEETING AUGUST 2:

2. RECENT INDO/PAK TALKS "WERE HELD AGAINST THE BACK-
GROUND OF THE INDIA-BANGLADESH JOINT STATEMENT OF 17 APRIL".
BEFORE THAT STATEMENT, GOI HAD MAINTAINED IT COULD NOT
RELEASE PAK POWS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT BANGLADESH, AND
BANGLADESH HAD INSISTED ON RECOGNITION BY GOP BEFORE
IT WOULD DISCUSS RELEASE OF POWS. INDIA/BANGLADESH
DECLARATION WAS PROJECTED AS GENEROUS GESTURE DELINKING
POLITICAL QUESTION OF RECOGNITION FROM HUMANITARIAN ISSUES.
"THIS WAS FORWARD STEP" AND GOP SUBSEQUENTLY INVITED
GOI ENTER INTO TALKS TO DISCUSS "THE IMPLICATIONS OF
THE JOINT STATEMENT AND TO EXPLORE FURTHER POSSIBILITIES
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT". DURING
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EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS

IT WAS AGREED THAT TALKS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO FINDING SOLUTION "FROM A PURELY HUMANITARIAN ANGLE" OF QUESTIONS OF REPATRIATION PAK POWS, BENGALIS IN PAKISTAN AND PAK NATIONALS IN BANGLADESH.

3. "THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF REPATRIATION". OF THE TWO ISSUES REQUIRING DISCUSSION, THE FIRST WAS WAR CRIMES TRIALS OF PAK POWS. "THE VALIDITY OF THE ARGUMENT THAT SUCH TRIALS WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RECONCILIATION WAS RECOGNIZED AND IT WAS FELT THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THIS ISSUE MIGHT BE CIRCUMVENTED".

4. OTHER ISSUE WAS THAT OF NON-BENGALIS IN BANGLADESH WHO WERE SAID TO HAVE OPTED FOR REPATRIATION TO PAKISTAN. "IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF FEAR, INSECURITY AND PERSECUTION, THE NON-BENGALIS DID NOT REALLY HAVE A MEANINGFUL CHOICE AND, THEREFORE, THE QUESTION OF THEIR MIGRATION FROM BANGLADESH TO PAKISTAN SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AN ATMOSPHERE OF RECONCILIATION HAS BEEN GENERATED AS A RESULT OF THE REPATRIATIONS. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, ONLY PERSONS OF WEST PAKISTAN DOMICILE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES AND MEMBERS OF DIVIDED FAMILIES SHOULD MOVE FROM BANGLADESH TO PAKISTAN".

5. IN CONTEXT OF NORMALIZATION OF SITUATION IN SUBCONTINENT, QUESTIONS OF BANGLADESH RECOGNITION AND ADMISSION TO UN WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT UNGA RESOLUTIONS MADE BANGLADESH ADMISSION TO UN "INTERDEPENDENT" WITH RETURN OF PAK POWS. QUESTION OF ADMISSION TO UN, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE RAISED UPON COMPLIANCE WITH GA RESOLUTIONS AND 1971 SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION REGARDING REPATRIATION POWS.

6. AS REGARDS BANGLADESH RECOGNITION, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD AUTHORIZED GOB RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH "IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN PRINCIPLES INCLUDING THOSE OF REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANI POWS AND ABANDONMENT OF THE IDEA OF TRIALS OF SOME OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR".

7. "AS SOME OF THESE ISSUES REQUIRED FURTHER CONSIDERATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TALKS WERE ADJOURNED UNTIL 18 AUGUST 1973".

8. GOB WOULD HOPE THAT HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH HAD BEEN "DELINKED" IN INDIA-BANGLADESH DECLARATION "WOULD NOT NOW BE RELINKED". "AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE SOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS CONTINGENT ON PRIOR SETTLEMENT OF THE POLITICAL ISSUES WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO USING THE PAKISTANI PRISONERS OF WAR AS

A LEVER TO SECURE POLITICAL CONCESSIONS".
SOBER

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